Rail line to Meghalaya

4448. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway line is likely to be extended to Meghalaya in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that construction of railway line between Dadhnoi and Depa in Mehgalaya was sanctioned in 1992-93 ; and

(d) if so, when the project is likely to take off and what will be its completion time alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) The work extension of Railway line in Meghalaya from Dudhnoi to Depa was included in the Budget 1992-93. The land papers have been submitted to the State Government but land has not been made available so far. Work on the project would be taken up once the land is handed over by the State Government and will be completed as per availability of resources.

Katra Rail Project

4449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the construction of Katra Rail project; and

(b) by when the railway line for Katra will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The work of construction of rail line between Jammu-Udhampur is in advanced stage of completion. The work is targetted for completion during 2003-2004. The work of Udhampur-Katra section is also in progress as part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail link project. Earthwork, bridges and tunnelling are in various stages of progress in this section. The Railway line upto Katra is targetted for completion during 2004-2005.